

Macbeth Quotes

"Fair is foul and foul is fair . . ." (Witches 1.1)

"So foul and fair a day I have not seen." (Macbeth 1.3)

"The Thane of Cawdor lives. Why do you dress me / In borrowed robes?" (Macbeth 1.3)

"Yet do I fear thy nature. / It is too full of the milk of human kindness . . ." (Lady Macbeth 1.5)

"Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here . . ." (Lady Macbeth 1.5)

"I dare do all that may become a man; / Who dares do more is none." (Macbeth (1.7)

"When you durst do it, then you were a man . . ." (Lady Macbeth 1.7)

"By the pricking of my thumbs / Something wicked this way comes." (2nd Witch 4.1)

"Infected be the air whereon they ride, / And damned all those that trust them!" (Macbeth 4.1)

"She should have died hereafter: / There would have been a time for such a word. / Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow / Creeps in this petty pace from day to day / To the last syllable of recorded time, / And all our yesterdays have lighted fools / The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle! / Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player / That struts and frets his hour upon the stage / And then is heard no more. It is a tale / Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, / Signifying nothing." (Macbeth 5.5)

"the cruel ministers / Of this dead butcher and his **fiendlike queen** . . ." (Malcolm 5.8)

"And oftentimes, to win us to our harm / The instruments of darkness tell us truths." (Banquo 1,3, Lines 122-3)

"Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?" (Lady Macbeth 5,1, Lines 34-39)

"Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep!" (Voice 2, 2, Lines 34-5)

"Is this a dagger I see before me,

The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still. / Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible / To feeling as to sight, or art thou but / A dagger of the mind, a false creation, / Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?"(

"Stars, hide your fires:

Let not light see my black and deep desires: / The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be / Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see." (Macbeth to himself 1, 5, Lines 50-3)

'all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand'

'what's done is done'

“Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it”

‘... I have given suck and know

How tender ‘tis to love the babe that milks me’

Not only do her words emphasize that she would give up everything for Macbeth, but unveils that the Macbeths’ had lost a child.

"False face must hide what the false heart doth know." (Macbeth to his wife, 1, 8, Line 82)

"Out, damned spot! Out, I say! One: two:

why, then 'tis time to do't. Hell is murky.

Noughts had, all's spent'

Other discussion / analysis of Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth is often described as the most evil woman in literature. Throughout the play, I found it easy to dismiss this fiend-like queen. My interpretation and understanding of her character is that there is more to Lady Macbeth than pure wickedness.

In her first scene, [Shakespeare](#) uses phrases to conjure up images of spirits. He adds to her evil characterisation with careful word choice used in association with her ‘chastise with the valour of my tongue’. Lady Macbeth also mentions the raven, a bird of ill omen. In Act two Scene two, a shrieking owl, also a bird often-symbolising evil and ill omen, interrupts one of her first soliloquies

It is during Act One, Scene seven, that it becomes easier to simply classify Lady Macbeth as evil. She is trying to encourage Macbeth to kill Duncan, taunting him and mocking him to do so. She tells him not to ‘live like a coward’ and teases his manhood. The Macbeths are still portrayed as having a close relationship and by the scene’s end are devising the murder together. I believe that Lady Macbeth’s main ambition is for her husband. In her first appearance, she shows her strength and determination for Macbeth by saying:

‘Glamis though art and Cawdor; and shalt be
What art though promised...’

She is aware that the only way to drive him forward is in bullying him and pulling him down. The idea in her mind is of what Macbeth could be - a great king and does not want him to be unfulfilled, bitter and twisted simply because he did not have the nerve to fulfil his ambition. Lady Macbeth’s great attribute is her love and devotion for her husband. Her relationship with him is strong. She knows how his mind works and so encourages his ambition. Throughout the play she is a loving and affectionate wife, a fact often forgotten when studying her character.

One of the most important quotes from this scene, I feel is:

‘... I have given suck and know

How tender ‘tis to love the babe that milks me’

Not only do her words emphasise that she would give up everything for Macbeth, but unveils that the Macbeths’ had lost a child. Losing a baby would have caused much trauma and distress. She has great grievance. Killing Duncan may be a way of getting revenge on the world. By becoming king and queen, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth would once again share something, filling the space created by their baby’s death. This fact only fuels her ambition.

Lady Macbeth’s portrayal is of a very powerful woman until the end of the play. It could be argued that her character is more powerful than her husband’s. She always encourages Macbeth to ‘consider it not so

deeply' and to keep strong. But how powerful was she? Or did Shakespeare hide her true character, to add more mystery? I think this is a more likely case. Lady Macbeth's power and strength makes her out to be a viscous woman, however, when 'Noughts had, all's spent' her powers begin to relax and sink. Her distress in her final scene caused me to feel sympathetic, her mask of power gone, and no longer the harsh, wicked woman. One recurring image that Shakespeare uses throughout the play is the image of things happening in darkness and people masking their thoughts. The interest in Lady Macbeth's character is partly because she never reveals herself fully, always keeping the face of a strong and stable character. Along with ambition, this falseness she puts on, plays a large part in her downfall. Because of it she fails to realise, or simply dismisses, the consequences that may arise from their actions. There are few times where Lady Macbeth shows her power is an act but, when she does, it portrays a more feminine and caring character. On the night of the murder, affectionate memories of her dead father, make her pause in the midst of crime. She is forced to call spirits to 'unsex me' before thinking of murder. If one accepts the genuineness of her fainting spell it could be classed as a feminine act.

Act five, Scene one is the last time in the play that Lady Macbeth appears. She has reached breaking point, seen sleepwalking and deeply regretting her crime. I felt this scene was significant as for the first time I trully felt sorry for Lady Macbeth. The contrast between her strong minded and powerful character, and the unstableness and suffering that she goes through now is immense. You almost cannot help feeling sympathy towards her. I believed this was when she revealed her many good qualities and was not just an evil woman. Would a purely malicious person become that affected by their crime?

Lady Macbeth had many weak points, which came across as evilness, but also possessed many strengths. She was strong minded and clever. Her motive for crime was her unselfish love for Macbeth, whom she wanted to be king, his highest ambition. I feel that there is more to Lady Macbeth than a nasty person, and that when studying her character we should concentrate more on her character's qualities and the reasons behind her actions.